

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 ACDA-12 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00
OMB-01 AID-05 OES-07 DLOS-09 /141 W
-----041559 241818Z /50

P 241703Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0901
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 08811

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: GY, EAID, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET-GUYANESE COMMUNIQUE ON BURNHAM VISIT

REF: (A) MOSCOW 8070, (B) MOSCOW 8368

SUMMARY: SOVIET-GUYANESE COMMUNIQUE ON VISIT TO SOVIET
UNION OF GUYANESE PM BURNHAM HEAVILY REFLECTS SOVIET LINE.
STILL, THERE IS SOME INDICATION, EVEN IN THIS SYCOPHANTIC
DOCUMENT, OF LESS THAN ABSOLUTE UNANIMITY OF VIEWS. PROB-
LEM MAY CENTER ON DIFFERENT APPROACH OF TWO COUNTRIES
TOWARD NEW, INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER, BUT EVIDENCE TO
SUPPORT THIS IS ONLY INFERENTIAL. END SUMMARY.

1. APRIL 23 CENTRAL PRESS CARRIES TEXT OF JOINT SOVIET-
GUYANESE COMMUNIQUE ON BURNHAM VISIT. ASSUME DEPT. HAS
FULL TEXT. EMBASSY WILL NOT SUMMARIZE THIS EXHAUSTIVE
DOCUMENT BUT WILL SIMPLY NOTE SOME OF MORE INTERESTING
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POINTS AS FOLLOWS:

-- CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF SOME DIFFERENCE OF OPINION CAN
BE INFERRED FROM PHRASE "BUSINESSLIKE AND CONSTRUCTIVE
EXCHANGE OF OPINIONS" DESPITE COMMUNIQUE'S CLEAR EMPHASIS
ON THOSE MANY ISSUES ON WHICH TWO SIDES HAD SAME OPINION,
AND DESPITE DESCRIPTION OF ATMOSPHERE OF TALKS AS ONE OF

"CORDIALITY AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING;"

-- SOVIET SIDE, IN APPLAUDING GUYANA'S "STEPS" TOWARD SOCIAL-ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION OF SOCIETY WAS MORE RESTRAINED THAN BURNHAM. BURNHAM HAD REFERRED TO "FIRM STEPS...TO LAY THE BASIS OF SOCIALISM" IN GUYANA. COMMENT: MOSCOW IS OFTEN MORE CAUTIOUS IN CATEGORIZING THE LEFTWARD TILT OF THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES THAN ARE THE LEADERS OF THOSE COUNTRIES THEMSELVES. END COMMENT.

-- ECHOING REPORT OF APRIL 17 TALKS (REF A), TWO SIDES EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF "EXPANSION OF AGREED-UPON BASIS" OF BILATERAL COOPERATION IN SUCH AREAS AS TRADE, ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, MARITIME FISHING AND SHRIMPING. TWO SIDES PLEDGED TO WORK TOWARD FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL TIES IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL "AND OTHER" TIES AND TO DEVELOP "COOPERATION IN INTERNATIONAL ARENA." COMMENT: WHILE PHRASE "AND OTHER" IN THIS CONTEXT IS COMMON EUPHEMISM FOR MILITARY COOPERATION, WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THAT THIS IS THE CASE IN THIS INSTANCE. END COMMENT.

-- TWO SIDES NOTE IMPORTANCE OF "POLITICAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION OF ACTS OF BOTH STATES" AS WELL AS FURTHER CONTACTS AND CONSULTATIONS.

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-- ON "MOST IMPORTANT CURRENT PROBLEMS", TWO SIDES APPROVINGLY NOTE "COINCIDENCE OR NEARNESS OF POINTS OF VIEW" - A FURTHER INDICATION OF AT LEAST SOME DIFFERENCES - THIS PHRASE IS REPEATED FROM REPORT ON BURNHAM-BREZHNEV MEETING ON APRIL 19 (REF B).

-- ON LENGTHY LIST OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, THERE IS NO REAL HINT OF WHAT THESE DIFFERENCES MIGHT BE ALTHOUGH WE DO NOTE THAT GUYANESE SIGNED ON TO BASIC SOVIET INTERPRETATION OF NEED FOR "RECONSTRUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS." SINCE GUYANESE INTERPRETATION AS DESCRIBED BY BURNHAM IN HIS APRIL 17 DINNER SPEECH TO KOSYGIN DIFFERED CONSIDERABLY FROM THAT OF HIS SOVIET HOSTS, THIS ISSUE MAY VERY WELL REPRESENT A CONTINUING PROBLEM AREA BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES (REF A).

-- AN UNUSUAL NOTE IS STRUCK BY TWO SIDES' POSITIVE ASSESSMENT OF CUBAN SUCCESS IN "SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSTRUCTION" AND OF CUBAN POLICY WHICH IS "EXAMPLE" FOR OTHER COUNTRIES STRUGGLING FOR THEIR FREEDOM, RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE.

2. COMMENT: COMMUNIQUE APPEARS AS A MODEL OF SUCH DOCUMENTS WHICH SOVIET UNION WOULD LIKE TO SIGN WITH THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES. APART FROM CHINA, VIRTUALLY EVERY INTERNATIONAL ISSUE OF INTEREST TO SOVIET SIDE IS TOUCHED UPON - AND IN SOVIET TERMS. BUT WHETHER THIS EXAMPLE OF DIPLOMATIC SYCOPHANCY WILL BE SIGNIFICANT IN GETTING THE GUYANESE TANGIBLE RESULTS IN THEIR SEARCH FOR INCREASED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND POLITICAL SUPPORT REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, COMMUNIQUE, VISITS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW08811
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780174-1080
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780424/aaaaaudq.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d3cbc9a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 MOSCOW 8070, 78 MOSCOW 8368
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2870998
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET-GUYANESE COMMUNIQUE ON BURNHAM VISIT
TAGS: EAID, GY, UR, (BURNHAM, L F S)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d3cbc9a8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014